

# Social Research Call 2020

## Selected projects

**Title:** The Labor Market Returns to Dual Vocational Education

**Acronym:** FPDUALCAT

**Project leader:** Samuel Bentolila

**Host organisation:** Centro de Estudios Monetarios y Financieros (CEMFI)

**Main purpose of the project:** In 2012, Spain introduced dual vocational education, in which students alternate their training between the school and a company, spending more time at the latter than was standard beforehand. This project will estimate the causal impact of this reform on the school-to-work transition of youth using high-quality data for Catalunya.

**Design/methodology/approach:** Graduates from the dual track will be compared with graduates of the school-based track in the same fields, schools, and years, in terms of their employment rate and job quality after graduation. Quasi-experimental methods will be used to control for observed and unobserved characteristics of students, schools, and training firms.

**Potential results:** This project will quantify the differences in labor market outcomes between the two tracks and their variation by field, student characteristics, time since graduation, and time since the dual tracks were introduced. The extent to which these differences arise from the acquisition of cognitive and non-cognitive skills will be investigated.

**Social relevance of the research:** Young people suffer from very low employment rates and unstable careers in Spain, whereas they do much better in countries with consolidated dual vocational education systems. This project will evaluate the impact of the dual track on those outcomes and will provide recommendations for improving its regulation and implementation.

**Originality/value of the project:** The employment rate and job quality attained by graduates of dual vocational education has never been evaluated with quasi-experimental methods in countries introducing it, as opposed to those having consolidated systems, with such rich individual data on students (including non-cognitive ability), schools, and training firms as envisaged in this project.